

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(original)** A layered structure comprising
 - a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
 - a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition;
 - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.
2. **(original)** A layered structure according to claim 1, whereby said first intermediate layer comprises titanium and/or chromium.
3. **(currently amended)** A layered structure according to claim 1 or 2, whereby said structure further comprises at least a layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition on top of said diamond-like carbon layer.
4. **(currently amended)** A layered structure according to ~~any one~~ of the preceding claims claim 1, whereby said first intermediate layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1 μm .

5. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said second intermediate layer has a thickness of
0.01 to 5 μm .

6. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said diamond-like carbon layer has a thickness
between 0.1 and 10 μm .

7. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said nanocomposite composition comprises in
proportion to the sum of C, Si, and O in at% 40 to 90 % C, 5 to 40 % Si, and 5 to 25 % O.

8. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said second intermediate layer comprises a metal
doped diamond-like nanocomposite composition.

9. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said diamond-like carbon layer is doped with a
metal.

10. (currently amended) A substrate covered at least partially with
a layered structure according to ~~any on of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.

11. (original) The use of a substrate according to claim 10 for high
shear and/or high impact applications.

12. (currently amended) A method to cover a substrate with a layered structure according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, whereby said method comprises the steps of

- providing a substrate;
- applying a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- applying a second intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition;
- applying a diamond-like carbon layer.